

TEXANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Texans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Texas. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Texas.

INCOME: TEXANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Texas was \$ 44,543.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Texas was \$ 42,102, a significant drop of 5.5 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN TEXAS HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Texas had 4,607,000 adults without insurance (22.3 percent).³
- In 2005, Texas had 5,516,000 adults without insurance (24.2 percent).⁴
- Texas had 526,406 children benefit from the SCHIP program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN TEXAS

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Texas was \$7,634.⁶ In 2005, it was \$10,233, a 34 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Texas was \$16,973.⁸ In 2005, it was \$22,218, a 31 percent increase.⁹
- Number of Texans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 249,008¹⁰
- Number of Texans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 264,979¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR TEXAS RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Texas was \$1.327 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in Texas is \$2.258 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Texas was \$2,186.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Texas is \$3,720, \$1,534 (70.2 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: TEXANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Texas – 2,794,350¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Texas – \$810¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: TEXANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Texans killed in Iraq – 236¹⁸
- Number of Texans wounded in Iraq – 1,936¹⁹
- Number of Texans killed in Afghanistan – 21²⁰
- Number of Texans wounded in Afghanistan – 83²¹
- Number of Veterans in Texas – 1,681,748²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING TEXAS'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 1,427 estates in Texas paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 304 estates in Texas will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 863,000 workers in Texas would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING DISAPPEARING

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$41,043,728²⁶
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$3,624,582²⁷

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST TEXANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Texans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Texas residents each received an average of \$3,179 in tax cuts, while middle class Texas residents received only \$411.²⁸
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Texas residents will receive an average of \$45,232 in tax cuts, while middle class Texas residents will only receive \$763.²⁹
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Texas residents will each receive an average of \$88,159 in tax cuts, while middle class Texas residents will only receive \$859.³⁰

The richest Texans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Texans received 7.0 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.1 percent of the tax cut.³¹
- But, in 2006, the richest Texans will get 28.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 9.6 percent of the tax cut.³²

- And, in 2010, the richest Texans will get 48.8 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 9.5 percent of the tax cut.³³

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Texans.

- In 2010, the richest Texans will receive an average of \$14,246 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Texans will be getting over 61.1 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁴
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Texans will receive an average of \$28 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 2.4 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁵

SOURCES

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- 6: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
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- 24: United for a Fair Economy [www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html]. This estimate is based upon current law where the estate tax threshold is slated to rise to 3.5 million in 2009.
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[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

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